U. S. FOREST SERVICE

RESEARCH NOTE NC-107

NORTH CENTRAL FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION, FOREST SERVICE—U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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A SUMMARY OF PRESCRIBED BURNING DONE IN MINNESOTA AND WISCONSIN DURING 1969

ABSTRACT. — **Reports the results of a survey of operational prescribed burns in Minnesota and Wisconsin during 1969.**

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A recent survey shows approximately 10,100 acres of forest land were prescribed burned in Minnesota and Wisconsin in 1969 (table 1). About three-fourths of the total was burned for wildlife habitat management. The second greatest use was for planting-site preparation; seedbed preparation was third.

An identical survey made during 1968 showed similar results (Sando 1969).[1] Fewer acres were burned during 1969 (10,100 vs. 13,800) because of cold, wet, spring weather. However, an extended period of dry weather during late July and early August permitted more summer burning than in 1968.

Most prescribed burning for wildlife habitat improvement was done during the spring fire season. Summer burning was chiefly for regenerating forest stands. Most of the summer burning was done by the Minnesota Conservation Department for seedbed preparation on black spruce clearcuts. As in 1968, the greatest portion of the burning was done by a few experienced operators. Two individuals burned 7,000 of the 10,100-acre total. Apparently, experience in prescribed burning leads to its more extensive use as a land management tool.

[1] *Rodney W. Sando. The current status of prescribed burning in the Lake States. USDA Forest Serv. Res. Note NC-81, 2 p. N. Cent. Forest Exp. Sta., St. Paul, Minn. 1969.*

Table 1.—Summary of burns completed during 1969

OPERATIONAL BURNS

Agency	Purpose	Area burned	Average cost per acre
		Acres	Dollars
U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife	Wildlife habitat management	1,789	0.97
Minnesota Conservation Department	Planting site preparation	695	9.11
	Seedbed preparation	716	3.54
USDA Forest Service	Planting site preparation	514	4.96
	Seedbed preparation	135	10.00
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	Planting site preparation	225	24.54
	Wildlife habitat management	5,690	.42
	Hazard reduction	110	4.77
	Prairie maintenance	1	8.72
Total		9,875	
EXPERIMENTAL BURNS			
U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife	Oak Savannah conversion	59	.83
University of Minnesota	Natural area maintenance	190	--
Total		249	
Grand Total		10,124	

1971

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